

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY

By Superintendent N. B. Cook.

In compliance with your request for an article for the Christmas edition of your valuable paper, I submit herewith an article on the condition of the public schools in this county at the present time, as to number of pupils enrolled, average daily attendance, number of school buildings and class rooms in same belonging to the board of public instruction.

This may, to many, appear a prosaic subject for a Christmas edition, but it is an important one and one that a large majority of the householders of the county are, or ought to be, deeply interested in. The statistical portion of this paper is taken from the records in the superintendent's office and can be relied on as being correct. It is natural that I, having been so long identified with the schools in this county, should feel a deep interest in the growth of these schools as to the number enrolled and the large increase in the average daily attendance in same.

When I first assumed charge of the office of county superintendent of public instruction the board did not own ten school buildings worthy the name of school houses, while at this time we have the following:

- White Schools.**
- One 18-room school building, rooms 18.
 - One 8-room school building, rooms 8.
 - Two 5-room school buildings, rooms 10.
 - Three 3-room school buildings, rooms 9.
 - Nine 2-room school buildings, rooms 18.
 - Thirty-two one-room school buildings, rooms 32.
 - Total, fifty-two buildings, with 111 rooms.

Colored Schools.

For the colored children the board owns the following:

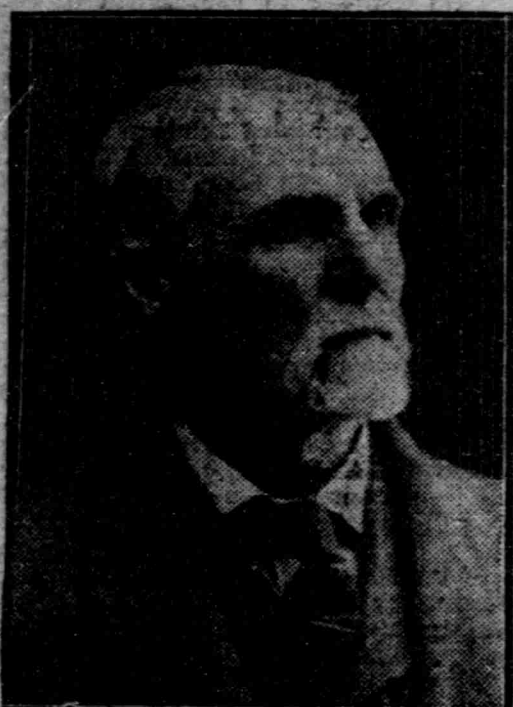
- One five-room building, rooms 5.
- Two four-room buildings, rooms 8.
- Two three-room buildings, rooms 6.
- Three two-room buildings, rooms 6.
- Two one-room buildings, rooms 2.
- Total, ten buildings with 29 rooms.

This makes a grand total of 62 buildings and 138 rooms. In addition to this the board is at present using four class rooms for white children and 16 for colored children that do not belong to the board.

All of the buildings belonging to the board are seated with patent school desks and are fairly well supplied with black boards, maps and charts, while the larger and more important schools, as No. 1 in Pensacola, 4 at Perry Pass, 5 at Roberts, 9 at Bluff Springs, 16 at Muscogee and 79 at Century have fairly well equipped libraries.

The enrollment and average daily attendance for the month ending November 30th, was as follows:

Enrollment.	
Whites—	
Male	1758
Females	1902
Total	3660
Colored—	
Male	816
Female	1059
Total colored	1875
Total both races	5535
Average daily attendance:	
Whites—	
Male	1428



N. B. COOK,
Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Female	1624
Total	3052
Colored—	
Male	719
Female	141
Total	1660
Total average attendance both races	4712

It will be noticed that while the board has equipped and erected within the last twenty-four years 62 different school buildings with 138 class rooms, yet it was forced from lack of funds to engage twenty class rooms from private parties, four for white and sixteen for colored children. This is not a pleasant situation for any set of business men to face. Nevertheless, it is on us and as men we must do our best to remedy this unpleasant financial situation.

Plenty of Money in Country.

I note that within the last few days the secretary of the United States treasury offered on the market \$30,000,000 bonds for the purpose of building the Panama canal. These bonds are to draw only two per cent interest, yet the bids for same largely exceeded the \$30,000,000 asked for, showing plainly that money is in abundance. It is true that the credit of the United States is first class and parties with money are always ready to invest liberally in United States bonds even at a low rate of interest, while other paper of equal intrinsic value cannot be placed at three times the price of United States bonds.

I make this statement advisedly, for while these United States bonds are in demand at two per cent, the board of public instruction when it called for and every dollar so borrowed will be paid to the last cent, including the interest thereon, and the United States will not pay one cent more than the amount of its bonds at maturity plus the two per cent interest due thereon.

More Room Needed.

The demand for more school room

is more urgent, especially in the city, and is equally so at several points in the country, and the new board that will assume control on the 1st of January next, will certainly be called upon to make preparation for a large increase in the number of children that will apply for admission in the schools on October 1, next.

The school rooms in this city are now badly crowded, and if the room and teachers could be had we could easily fill from four to six large class rooms the balance of this school year. The pressure will be greater in another year and now is the time to begin the planning for housing of the coming host of school children that will present themselves for admission in the new school October 1, 1908.

The old board of public instruction some three years ago, purchased a block of ground on East Hill, with the intention of erecting a fine high school and grammar school on said block, and it went so far as to have plans in the architect's office prepared for a twenty-four room building. These plans were arranged so that this building could be erected in sections of eight class rooms each, and that, too, without marring the building as a whole.

The basement to the center section of the building has been excavated and concrete foundations completed, so that the original plan of erecting this building in sections of eight rooms each with the other sections to be completed as the demand for same became urgent could still be carried out.

I trust that the new board will be able to put the ball in motion early in the next year and secure the needed additional room in ample time for the next school term. Provision will also have to be made for the children in the extreme northwestern suburbs of this city. There is quite a colony now settled in that section that need school room and same should be provided if possible.

The board owns an acre of land that is, in just the right portion of the section and a two, three or four-room building should be erected for the children in this growing portion of the city.

The Colored People.

Additional room is also urgently needed for the colored people in the northwestern portion of the city. A four or six-room building should be arranged for these people by next school term.

I feel that I, an ex-slave owner and ex-Confederate soldier, can safely advocate the building of a school house for negro children without being unduly criticised. I couldn't if I would, and I wouldn't if I could, forget the loyalty of the old slaves, during the great war between the states to their owners. I recall vividly to mind the actual condition existing in my own home in May, 1865. I landed on my home on the night of May 15th, 1865, and found my wife and a young lady, who had kindly consented to stay with her until the cloud should blow away and some information could be learned of my whereabouts, for whether I was in the land of the living or not was totally unknown to my family, as not one message had been received from me since about the last of September, 1864. My farm was one and a half miles from Calhoun Station and the agent at that place was our nearest neighbor, yet these two young women were at home, surrounded by more than sixty negroes, at least more than twenty of them men, and that without a thought of treachery.

I reached home as stated above in the night, and it was Saturday night at that, and when morning came my yard was full of negroes, just as anxious to see me as they could have been together and must of necessity, and while I acted candidly with them, and told them they were no longer my slaves and they were free to leave and go where they pleased, without a dissenting voice, every one said they would remain on the plantation and were ready to obey my orders as they had ever been.

This was the condition all over the south after the war, and but for the outside meddling of fanatics who knew nothing of the warm and true friendship existing between the southern master and the southern slave, there never acted hand developed the gulf that now exists between the two races in this beautiful southland of ours.

It matters not now who was the cause of this estrangement; we as two peoples, whites and blacks, are here together and must of necessity so remain, and the whites as the ruling and controlling race should do all they can to make good citizens out of our black neighbors.

Negroes have many good qualities as any man who has ever lived among them and has treated them fairly can agree to. As a race all will agree that they are first-class laborers. My idea is that our principal efforts in dealing with this race should be along lines tending to make them self-supporting and our schools should, at least all the large ones, have manual training as one of the leading branches. I believe this would ultimately reduce the number of the idle and vicious in our community.

Manual Training.

A few weeks ago I spent one day in inspecting the schools of Columbus, Ga., and I was most favorably impressed with the great manual training school there, as it is called, in Columbus, and I could not (while going through the grand building and looking at the bright school boys in their overalls working at their benches, many of them doing work that when finished they would not be ashamed of) help reverting back to the plans of the Pensacola High School evolved by that true friend of the public schools and many other advancements of Pensacola, Hon. A. V. Clubb, who was for a number of years chairman of our board of public instruction.

The plans for the said Pensacola High School building if completed in accord with the original plans, would make an ideal building for inaugurating an industrial department allied with and connected with the High School, School No. 2, on East Gregory street, could also be converted into a good primary industrial school. The present trend of thought turns to lines leading to the practical or best side and as educators it would be well for us to look closely into these matters, and while I myself am not willing to lower the standard of the academic work done in our schools, still could we not, as is done in Columbus, Ga., add this industrial feature to our larger schools by adding an hour per day to the school day, and in the main building of high school, Saturday half-holiday could

also be included. This additional time could be arranged with the teachers in these schools by an increase in salaries in due proportion to the extra time required.

As to Finances.

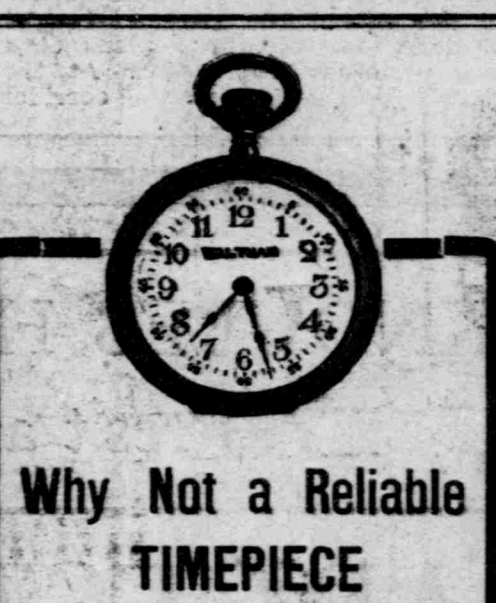
Now comes the question of finance. How are we in our present condition to arrange for a big increase in school expenses? This is the one subject that, like Banquo's ghost, will not down, and is the one thing that must be arranged for before it will be possible to inaugurate any extensive improvements or the adoption of new plans that will necessarily call for increased expenditures. That there is a plethora of funds in the United States is clearly indicated by the heavy bidding made for the \$30,000,000 Panama two per cent bonds. There was also a number of men with incomes of such large proportions that it is an actual burden to them to devise ways of disposing of these huge sums, and if the subject could be properly brought to the attention of these wealthy people, means could be readily provided.

The Juda Touro, McDonoughs, Paul Tulanes, Corcorans and George Peabodys are not all dead, nor is the stock extinct by any means. We see evidences of this in many ways and especially in large donations given by wealthy men to colleges that are already encumbered with plethoric incomes, but it is seldom that the thoughts of these men ever turn in the direction of the common public schools—the school that has to deal with and handle the masses—sons and daughters of the makers of wealth in this vast and grand country of ours.

Example of Columbus.

Just let the attention of these immensely wealthy people once turn to the common schools, and means will flow in quantities sufficient to meet every want. For illustration, look at Columbus, Ga. The school officials of that city were fully as cramped financially as is the Board of public instruction of Escambia county, Florida.

They needed an industrial school for the great number of young people now growing up in this typical manufacturing town, and the man for the occasion was on hand, in the person of that big, broadminded practical man of affairs, G. Gundy Jordan, and when he learned that \$100,000 was needed for the building and equipping of the most up-to-date industrial school in the United States, this \$100,000 was procured and the building was completed and is now occupied



Why Not a Reliable
TIMEPIECE
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Probably you've been figuring all the past year on giving yourself a watch. Why not hint of this to the husband—the wife—the sister—the brother.

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by a large number of boys, learning not only to take care of themselves in the future, but of helping those less fortunate.

One hundred thousand dollars turned over to the Board of Public Instruction of Escambia county would work wonders for the advancement of the present generation of young people in the county, and would extend its beneficial influence to untold numbers in the future. Still Pensacola (the second oldest city in the United States which has in the past taken care of itself, never in its existence having received any outside aid) will move onward and upward, will, not in the far future, be one of the cities of the gulf of Mexico and attract the attention of citizens and capitalists not only of the United States, but all over the world.

N. B. COOK,
County Superintendent of Public Instruction, Pensacola, Fla.

WHAT TO GIVE ON CHRISTMAS

The Daily Journal Herewith
Makes Some Suggestions.

Study This List.

Gift-giving outside the family is one of the pleasures of the Christmas season, and the problem of what to give the minister, what to choose for the doctor, how to select a suitable present for the cook, is one that confronts every Christmas shopper.

"I have given the letter-carrier a necktie every Christmas for five years and I am sure he must get one from everybody along his route," said a woman yesterday. "I wish I knew what to give him that would be a change."

To simplify the selection of gifts to those outside the household, The Journal has made the following list, suitable for friends and acquaintances:

From a Woman to a Woman.

Piece of antique jewelry, leather dressing case, sewing box, embroidered handkerchiefs, copper tea kettle, Japanese vase, Japanese print, reproduction of favorite painting, novelty paper, pen, fountain pen, stationery, workbag, favorite poems, favorite novel, gold-plated bracelet, embroidered collar and cuffs, desk set, collar supporters in mother-of-pearl, leather music roll, hatpin holder, handkerchiefs, lingerie ribbon holder, handkerchiefs, laundry bag, ruff for neck, handkerchiefs.

From a Man to a Man.

Guns, leather hatbox, suit case, umbrella, gold-headed cane, desk set in leather, copy of sporting prints, easy chair, cigar case, set of shears and paper knife, watch fob in gold, house coat, office furnishings, meerschaum pipe, ash tray, tobacco jar, letter rack, cigars, gloves, handkerchiefs, brass inkstand, subscription to sporting magazine, dog, revolving book-case, fencing foils, furnishings for den.

From a Girl to a Girl.

Calendar, pair of gloves, embroidered collar, neckwear, bottle fine perfume, powder bag and puff, sofa pillow, guitar, book, knitted sweater, silver toilet articles, opera glasses, tennis racquets, white kid gloves, works of favorite author, picture frame, slipper buckles, souvenir spoon, gold-plated buckle, hatpins, scarf for evening wear, silver purse, silver ear-cases, leather satchel, coral beads, unmounted birthstone.

From a Young Man to a Girl.

Flowers, well-bound volume of modern fiction, dog, candy, postcard album, gold print of favorite painting, cardcase, desk set, quantity framed miniatures, belt buckle, music roll, gloves, handkerchiefs with embroidered initial, soft pillow handbag, set of Shakespeare, hand-embroidered parasol, spangled gauze fan.

From a Mistress to a Servant.

Material for dress, half dozen white aprons, gingham house gown, collars and cuffs, slide combs, handkerchiefs, umbrella, easy slippers, cook book, toilet articles, candy, stationery, an alarm clock, pin cushion, belt, fountain pen, bottle of perfume, cuff links, hatpin, pair scissors, Bible, pair warm gloves, knitted sweater, silver thimble, brooch.

Employer to Employee.

Gloves, book, umbrella, money, stickpin, cane, suitcase, penknife, camera, silver watch chain, rifle, fishing rod, dictionary, fountain pen, shirt studs, cuff links, leather dressing case, wallet, necktie clips, handkerchiefs, box cigars.

For the Minister.

Book, gloves, cane, umbrella, hem-stitched handkerchiefs, study lamp, extension book rack, wood box, ash tray, slippers, sofa pillows, paper knife, subscription to magazine, silver clothes brushes, house coat, framed etching, mantel clock, pine

rack, coat hanger, sterling grip tags, traveling bags.

For the Doctor.

Medicine case, leather desk set, cane, dress suit, protector, shaving mirrors, gloves, photograph frame, meerschaum pipe, fancy waistcoat, neckties, steamer rug, bill fold, monogram fob, card case, razor roll, traveling flask, auto clock, thermos bottle, auto goggles, collar bag, lap robe, coat sweater, calendar.

For the Postman.

Warm gloves, knitted muffler, wrist warmers, penknife, box of cigars, watch fob, collar box, handkerchiefs, scarfpin, silk muffler, silk suspenders, leather cigar case, match safe, safety razor, mission pipe rack, pipe, pocket diary, razor strap.

For the Ashman.

Money, necktie, woolen gloves, muffler, pipe, tobacco pouch, penknife, suspenders, cigars, colored handkerchief.

He Guessed Right.

A crowd of small boys were gathered about the entrance of a Christmas tent in one of the small cities in New Hampshire one day, trying to get a glimpse of the interior. A man standing near watched them for a few minutes, then walking up to the ticket taker he said:

"Let all these boys in, and count them as they pass."

The man did as requested, and when the last one had gone, he turned and said:

"Twenty-eight."

"Good!" said the man, "I guessed just right," and walked off.—Exchange.

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Kid Gloves, all colors, \$1.00 to \$3.50 the pair.

New line of Neckwear and Ruchings just received.

See our line of Holiday Handkerchiefs, all prices.

Ladies' hand-made Fascinators and Circular Shawls.

Ladies' Neck Scarfs and Linen Embroidery Collars just received.

Ladies' Parasols \$1.00 to \$6.00.

Ladies' Purses and Hand Bags, all prices.

Fancy Linen Drawn Work Scarfs and Covers.

New lot Ladies' Coat Sweaters just received, \$3.00 to \$5.00.

Ladies' Silk and Net Waists. Closing out entire line.

Linen Table Sets, Napkins to match.

Ladies' and Children's Furs \$1.00 to \$15.00.

Trunks and Suit Cases, all sizes and prices.

Baby Caps, Baby Saques and Booties all prices.

Closing-out our entire line of Rugs and Art Squares.

Boys' Suits, 3 to 17 years, all colors, \$2.50 to 7.50.

Ladies' Coats at greatly reduced prices.

Ladies' Belts 25c to \$2.50.

Ladies' Back Combs.

Pillows, Plain and Fancy, Cords and Pillow Ruffling.

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